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UNFOLDING AFRICA.*

EIGHTH ANNUAL PAPER.

Africa retains its hold as the chief field of modern exploration, commercial experiment, and philanthropic and religious zeal. Enlightened enterprise is penetrating it at every point. Colonies and trading posts are springing up along every river, valley, and port; steamships are running far inland on streams and lakes: railways are building in various sections, and almost every tribe and settlement are being connected by telegraph with Paris, London, and New York. Remembering the magical rise of States and cities in North America, it is not difficult to foresee, within a century, the erection of capitals and metropolitan centres throughout the African Continent.

GOVERNMENTAL.

Governmental scramble for territory having apparently ceased, divisions and adjustments of possessions and sovereignty are now taking place.

The British Protectorate of the Niger districts is thus officially proclaimed under date of the Foreign Office, London, October 18, 1887:—"It is hereby notified for public information that, under and by virtue of certain Treaties concluded between the month of July, 1884, and the present date. and by other lawful means, the territories in West Africa, hereinafter referred to as the Niger Districts, are under the Protectorate of Her Majesty the Queen. The British Protectorate of the Niger Districts comprises the territories on the line of coast between the British Protectorate of Lagos and the right or western river bank of the mouth of the Rio del Rey. It further comprises all territories in the basin of the Niger and its affluents, which are, or may be for the time being, subject to the government of the

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National African Company, Limited, (now called the Royal Niger Company), in accordance with the provisions of the Charter of the said Company, dated the 10th July, 1886. The measures in course of preparation for the administration of justice, and the maintenance of peace aud good order in the Niger Districts, will be duly notified and published."

On the 20th of February, the Governor of Natal gave notice that, with the approval of Her Majesty's Government and the acquiescence of the Chiefs and people of Zuzuland, the authority of Queen Victoria had been extended over Eastern Zuzuland.

A treaty has been signed by Lord Salisbury and M. Flourens, limiting the sphere of action of England and France in Eastern Africa. By the terms of this understanding England recognizes the rights of France over the Obock territory and the Gulf of Tadjourah, and cedes to that country the island of Mashah, situated in the middle of the gulf. The frontier line of the French territory extends from Cape Djiboujeh, beyond the district already under French protection, to Harrar, from which it runs in a westerly direction to Choa. France acknowledges the authority of England in the territories situate to the east of Cape Djiboujeh, including Dongaretta.

An agreement concluded between Germany and England, relating to the Sultan of Zanzibar and German and English interests respectively in East Africa, has a double signification, first, in reference to the demarcating of the districts over which the Sultan of Zanzibar has imperial rights, and, secondly, in relation, as above, to the interests of Germany and England. The Sultan claimed uninterrupted possession of the entire coast from Cape Delgado to 2.25 deg. latitude north, and the whole of the land behind that, extending to lakes Tanganyika and Nyassa. According to the agreement there has been allowed him the sole right to the coast from Cape Delgado to Kipini, a harbor 1 deg. south latitude, together with an unimportant allowance of mainland. The width of this coast line, which, by an agreement of England and France at Zanzibar, was to extend to forty sea miles, has been reduced to ten; therefore the Sultan is obliged to renounce his claims to the whole of the mainland bordering thereto. To the German interests are assured the whole of the mainland possessions between Cape Delgado and the port of Wanga, about 4 deg. 30 min. south latitude, extending to the inland seas; also the northern part of lake Nyassa, the whole of lake Tanganyika, and the southern part of the Victoria Nyanza lake to 1 deg. south latitude. Germany also takes possession of the mountainous land of Uzambara and the greater part of the Kilima-Ndaro district.

In the Anglo-German West African treaty of 1885 a clause was inserted to the effect that the district of Ambas Bay (Victoria), at that time in the possession of the British, should be turned over to the German Government as soon as the latter had come to an agreement with the English Baptist Missionaries, who had resided there. It now appears that the Basle Evangelical Missionary Society has purchased the possessions of the Baptists in Ambas Bay, and that the district has been formally handed over to the German Cameroon authorities. The German Cameroons will thus be extended from 3 deg. south lat. to the Rio del Roy. The treaty concluded with France gave the latter country the district south of the Campo river, which formerly was a German possession, while in another treaty with England it was arranged that the Rio del Roy river should form the boundary of both districts, and in a still later agreement Yula, near Amu, was fixed as the inland boundary of the German colony. By this arrangement Germany is brought into close proximity to the borders of the Congo State.

A Convention has been entered into between France and the Congo Free State for the determination of the common frontier. Under this agreement the boundary will be the "thalweg" of the Oubrangi. The right bank of the river will belong to France; the left back to the Congo State. The station known as Nkoundja, founded by M. de Brazza, is handed over to the Free State. By this settlement the greater part of the basin of the Congo is assigned to France. At the same time the French Government admits that the right of pre-emption, which it obtained in 1883 over the Congo possessions, can only be exercised after Belgium has resolved not to acquire the colony should its founders desire to cede it. The founders renounce the permission, granted by M. Ferry, to issue a lottery of 20,000,000f. in France for the benefit of the Free State, and acquire the right of having the shares of its loans quoted to the amount of 80,000,000f. The agreement is understood to settle the last matter in dispute with reference to the French possessions of western Africa.

A Convention has been signed, fixing the boundaries of the German and Portuguese possessions on the southwest coast of Africa, and defining the regions in central Africa, where the two Powers may henceforth have liberty of action. The central region embraces, so far as Portugal is concerned, the whole area situated between the two Portuguese provinces of Angola and Mozambique. The Portuguese boundary in Southern Angola is as follows:—Following the course of the Cunene river from the mouth to the second cataract in

the mountains of Chella or Canna, the line runs parallel to the river as far as the Cubango, when it follows the course of that river in a southerly direction as far as Andara. From this point the boundary line runs along the parallel of lati ude as far as the Zambesi, crossing that river at the head of the Cetimo rapids. The limits in the north of Mozambique are determined by the course of the Rovuma as far as its confluence with the Msinge, the line running thence as far as the banks of the Nyassa. By the terms of this Convention Germany undertakes to establish no domination over these territories, and neither to accept a protectorate nor to interfere with Portuguese influence in the entire region situated between Angola and Mozambique, excepting certain points previously acquired by other Powers. Germany also recognizes the right of Portugal to exercise her right of sovereignty and her civilizing influence in the territories referred to.

By annexing the Saharan coast between capes Blanco and Pojador, and about 150 miles of the interior, and by treaties recently made with the Sheikha of Adarer, still further east, Spain introduces a wedge between the French in Senegal and the southern frontier of Morocco, besides gaining an important flank position upon the projected railway from Algeria to Senegal. By the treaty of 1814 France had returned to her all the Senegal coast which had been conceded to the French Senegal Company, whose extreme northern trading station was placed in the Bay of Arguin, slightly to the south of Cape Blanco. Spain takes possession of Greyhound Bay, under the lee of Cape Blanco, and joining on the south the Bay of Arguin. If the northern limit of the annexed territory really reaches Cape Bojador at an angle, as the land lies, there will be 500 miles of coast, so that the new Spanish territory covers no less than 75,000 square miles.

Italy is preparing for an active campaign for the establishment of its position in Africa, and Abyssinia is making ready for a determined resistance. At Rome a formidable expedition is being organized, volunteers are called for, and camels, indispensable to any campaign in Abyssinia, are being purchased in Egypt and at Aden. On the other hand King John has ordered Ras Alula to attack the Italians the moment they emerge from Massowah, and has issued a proclamation justifying his action. Several skirmishes betwee.. outposts and natives are reported to have already occurred. That the campaign, if pushed, will end in the success of Italy there can be little doubt, though that the difficulties which will attend the undertaking are not to be despised is shown by the British expedition against King Theodore. The overthrow of that monarch involved an expeditionary force of 16,000 men, which the necessities of transport and

supply increased to double that number, and as the Italians must advance by a more difficult route than the British, and face a united instead of a divided people, a force of at least equal magnitude will be inevitable.

A rising of the natives north and west of Inhambane against the Portuguese authorities on the coast appears to have been caused by the desire of the native King, Umgana, to punish certain chiefs who had been tributary to his father, Umzila, but who had recently submitted to the Portuguese authorities. Several months ago the Portuguese officers were excited over the reports of the finding of gold in the interior, and they sent an embassy to Umoyamuhle, the capital of Umgana, seeking authority to dig for gold within his territory. Negotiations were regarded as favorable, and the treaty was drawn, which was sent to Lisbon for ratification. The Governor of the province of Inhambane, and Captain Moore, commander of the Portuguese forces, set out for the king's headquarters, for the purpose of assuming control over the whole country, even as far as the Zambezi. Tax collectors were sent into the districts adjoining Inhambane, and two small districts to the north were peacefully attached to the Inhambane province. This seems to have irritated King Umgana, and he immediately despatched a large force to regain his possessions and punish the chiefs who had submitted. This they succeeded in doing speedily. The town of Inhambane has been in the hands of the Portuguese for the last three hundred years, and formerly had an important trade in gold and slaves. It is situated some twelve miles up a tidal arm of the sea. The Portuguese have a custom house, barracks, governor's house, and a half-dozen shipping offices. The defences consist of two guns and their complement of artillerymen, and two or three companies of infantry. The officers are drawn from the non-commissioned ranks of the Portuguese army, the rank and file consisting of Negroes, a large portion of whom are held as soldiers, as a species of penal servitude for various offences.

THE CONGO.

Details relative to the evacuation of the station of Stanley Falls by the forces of the Congo State show that a female slave took refuge in the station, and that the Arab chief, her owner, demanded her surrender, which Mr. Deane, the chief of the station, refused. After some violent discussion peace was re-established, the steamer Stanley having, in the meantime, arrived at the station. A few days afterwards, however, the Arabs attacked the station. The Congo State soldiers—Houssas and Bangalas—fought well for three days, but

their ammunition being exhausted they refused to continue the struggle, and embarked in pirogues in order to descend the river. Mr. Deane, Lieutenant Dubois, four Houssas, and four boys, then set the station on fire and retreated along the northern bank of the Congo. Lieutenant Dubois lost his balance on the steep bank and was drowned. Mr. Deane was hospitably received by some friendly natives, with whom he remained for a month. Captain Coquilhat, who commands the station of the Bangalas, on the arrival there of the disbanded Houssas and Bangalas, went immediately on board the steamer L'Association Internationale Africaine to the Falls, and, not having sufficient forces to retake the station, he succeeded, after three days' search, in finding Mr. Deane. Stanley Falls, on the Congo, has been the extreme point on the upper waters of the river occupied by the forces of the new State, and is about 1000 miles above Stanley Pool.

Unfavorable intelligence has been received from the colony on the French portion of the Congo, where warlike tribes incessantly devastate the best parts of the basin of the Ogowe, attacking exploring parties and caravans and laying waste the settlements already founded. M. de Brazza, Governor General of the French Congo, who left Libraville, on the coast, some months ago for the interior of the colony, was attacked by a body of Pahuins, who tried to prevent him from continuing his journey up the Ogowe, A fight ensued on the river, in which M. de Brazza repulsed his assailants. He lost some men, and several others who were wounded had to be sent back to the coast. M. de Brazza continued his journey.

The general government of the Congo is now organized. The Governor-General resides at Boma, where he publishes the decrees which are issued at Brussels by King Leopold. The decrees up to the present refer chiefly to the organization of property and to respect for authority and law. The civil and criminal code of Belgium has been made obligatory for the whole Congo State. A tribunal has been established at Boma, and a postal service from Banana to Leopoldville. The Governor-General administers the State with sovereign powers, and can by his authority decide all difficulties which may arise.

It is at Stanley Pool that the progress made by the Congo State during the last six years, can best be appreciated. In 1881 Mr. H. M. Stanley, who led the first expedition of the International Association, arrived there and founded Leopoldville, where the two Belgian officers, M. Valcke and M. Braconier, were installed. There are now at Stanley Pool nine establishments, containing some fifty Europeans

employed in either trading stations or missions. There are also the French station of Debrazzaville, a factory from Rotterdam, a French factory, and the two Belgian stations of Leopoldville and Kinchassa, containing fifteen Europeans, twenty workmen, and a garrison of Houssas and Bangalas.

The great difficulty experienced by the Independent Congo State is the acclimatisation of Europeans. The services of many intelligent and devoted men have been lost because they were brought into a climate different from that of Europe. The losses have been numerous on the Congo. The difficulty remains as regards non-acclimatised European workmen, who cannot withstand the African climate. It is for this reason that the Congo State has endeavored to take over Chinese to Central Africa. When General Scranch was at Berlin, in 1885, to assist in the labors of the Congo Conference, he had some conferences with General Tcheng-ki-Tong, the Chinese Military Attache, to whom he proposed that 500 Chinamen, joiners, carpenters, gardeners, &c., should be sent to the Congo. They were to receive a fixed salary, a free passage to the Congo and back, and the assurance that in case of death their bodies would be sent to China for interment. The Chinese Military Attache promised to transmit this proposal to Pekin, but no reply has yet been made by the Chinese Government.

STANLEY AND EMIN.

Just now the world is interested in efforts made for the relief of the learned and brave Dr. Emin Bey, who has been for some years in the interior of Africa superintending the province of which he w s given direction by the English Government before General Gordon's death. Letters have been received from Dr. Emin, dated at Wadelai, showing that he is still holding his own, and that he has done much for the development of the province and for the suppression of the slave trade. Wadelai is about one thousand miles south of Khartoum, between Gondokoro and the Albert Nyanza. He speaks of his great confidence in the trustworthiness and ability of the Negro, and says that his experience has taught him "that the black race is second to none in capacity and excels many others in unselfishness," and asks for succor—not for an armed force, but for supplies, including ammunition for his own forces. Emin Bey also states: "I have passed twelve years here, and have succeeded in reoccupying nearly every station in the country which General Gordon intrusted to me. I have won the trust and confidence of the people, sowing the seed of a splendid future civilization. It is out of the question to ask me

to leave. All I want England to do is to make a free trading way to the coast."

The Proceedings of the Royal Geographical Society gives a brief sketch of Emin Pasha, whose true name is Eduard Schneitzer, born March 28, 1840, in Prussian Silesia. After graduating in medicine he became attached to the household of Ismail Pasha, and visited Trebizond, Erzroom, and Constantinople. In 1875 he started for Egypt as surgeon in the army. Attracting the attention of Gen. Gordon he was made Governor of the Equatorial Province, and his subsequent history is now well known.

Mr. H. M. Stanley is leading an expedition for the rellef of Emin Pasha. It consists of about 700 men, provided with ample supplies. Starting from Zanzibar it moved by steamers to and up the Congo, and thence is marching by land from the Arnwhimi to Wadelai. The anxiety felt concerning the expedition is allayed by recently received telegrams. There was previously abundance of evidence to refute the report that the explorer had been killed, and the most recent despatch conveys the assurance that the march through the unknown region to be traversed between the Aruwhimi and Wadelai was proceeding without interruption from the natives, and with ample food supplies. Mr. Stanley has probably by this date fulfilled the leading object of his mission, as he was expected to be at Wadelai by the middle of October, if not sooner. Almost the next news we receive should apprise us of this most happy consummation. The Egyptian Government has contributed $50,000 toward the expenses of the expedition, and the British Geographical Society has given $5,000, with the expectation that when the immediate object of the undertaking shall have been accomplished, Mr. Stanley will spend some time in explorations.

The problem of African hydrography, which the prince of explorers is expected to solve, is one of extreme importance. It is no exaggeration to say that the secret which may be disclosed will surpass in importance the discovery that the Lualaba and the Congo form one continuous waterway from the Atlantic to lake Tanganyika. The question is whether there is not an equally mighty waterway from the same point on the Atlantic coast of Africa—the Congo mouth—right up to those southern provinces of Egypt which General Gordon and his lieutenants sought to rescue from the horrors of the slave traffic, and over a portion of which Emin rules. It has been said that a shower falling over a particular area in the interior of Brazil will contribute to the waters of the North and South Atlantic, and to the Pacific. By a similar chain of rivers there is reason to believe a small shower falling in the vicinity of the Albert Nyanza

would flow alike to the Mediterranean and to the Atlantic far south of the equator. In a few months we may expect to learn that the north-western half of Africa is almost an island, separated from the southeast portion by the Congo, the Mobangi, and the Nile.

EXPLORATIONS.

The return of Dr. Oscar Lenz to Europe after a journey of an unusually short duration from the mouth of the Congo to that of the Zambesi is a notable event in the annals of African travel. Starting from Banana, he advanced along the Congo to Stanley Falls, where he spent some time and from which he proceeded to Nyangwe, and thence to Kasonge, where Dr. Bohndorff, Dr. Lenz's companion, was prostrated, and several of his men fell ill and died of small-pox; in consequence the projected expedition was abandoned, and Dr. Lenz determined to make his way to the coast. He went from the Congo to lake Tanganyika, and taking boat to the southern end of the lake, he crossed another high plateau to lake Nyassa, encountering many difficulties in this portion of the route. From the southern end of lake Nyassa he followed the river Shire to the Zambesi, and thence reached the Eastern coast, his whole journey from the mouth of the Congo to that of the Zambesi having occupied but seventeen months.

Dr. Emil Holub has reached England after four years of exploration and although his expedition was broken up and plundered by the Mashukulumbe, a tribe far north of the Zambesi, he has saved a large and interesting collection which should prove of much scientific value. This collection—a wreck only of what was gathered by the industrious explorer—fills 147 cases. In it there are 692 skins of quadrupeds ready for stuffing, of which seventy are of animals as large as the koodoo—an antelope heavier than the red deer; of birds there are 2,221 specimens, of insects 27,000, including 21,000 beetles and 3,000 moths and butterflies. There also 6,500 specimens of plants. There are 1,600 recorded observations in meteorology and more than that number of the measurements of elevations. Altogether it seems probable that a more important collection was never dispatched from Africa at one time.

Few African explorers have accomplished so much that is of scientific value with such limited resources as Dr. Junker, and the results of his researches already made public are a sufficient warrant for the enthusiasm with which his return is welcomed. Without a base of operation from which to work, or goods or following to purchase or force a right of passage, he has pushed his way through the heart of Africa under circumstances the most adverse It is his intimacy with and friendship for the isolated remnant of Gordon's staff

in the Soudan, however, that invests him with most interest, as his safe return indicates the possibility that they, too, may yet emerge from the region in which for years they have been lost.

According to a letter received in Brussels, Lieut. Wissman, concerning whose whereabouts considerable uneasiness had been felt, arrived safely in the beginning of April at lake Tanganyika. He left the station at Luluaburg on the Kassai river in November, 1886, and proceeded into the unexplored region containing the sources of the Lulongo, Tshuapa, and Lomani rivers, intending to reach lake Tanganyika via Nyangwe. Lieut. Wissman's letter, dated at Kavala, an English missionary station at lake Tanganyika, shows that the explorer has so far been successful in carrying out his programme. He intends to return via the Nyassa and Zambesi rivers.

In a debate in the German Reichstag, Prince Bismarck stated that the budget item of £7,500 for colonial exploration, would be granted to well-known African travelers for the purpose of making scentific explorations in Africa, having chiefly for their object the opening up of German trade. It is now stated that the Government has resolved to hand over a part of this amount to Lieutenant Kund, who will proceed to the Cameroons and found a station which shall serve as the starting and return point of the explorations which will be made into the interior in the interests of science and commerce. Lieutenant Kund, who has already achieved fame by his travels with Lieutenant Tappenbeck in the Southern Congo, will be accompanied by a physician and a botanist. The Lieutenant will, in the first place, conduct expeditions into the land behind the Cameroons. Another slice of the fund is to support Dr. Zintgraff, who is to be sent by the Foreign office to the Cameroons to establish a station on Lake Elephant. Lake Elephant (Mbu) lies north of the Cameroons district, about 5 deg. north latitude and 9 deg. 30 min. east longitude. The lake was discovered by Tomczek, the companion of Scholz-Rogozinski. Dr. Zintgraff was attached to the staff of the Governor of the Cameroons for a year, and then made numerous investigations on the slopes of the southern mountains and on the delta. His intention is to sojourn some time in the north, and there to make observations, as the northern district is at present unexplored. From the contemporaneous observations in Batanga (3 deg. north latitude) in the south, and by Lake Elephant in the north, a thorough knowledge of the entire district of the Cameroons may soon be obtained.

Major Serpa Pinto, the well-known Portuguese explorer, who three years ago made the brilliant passage through Africa, has again arrived in Lisbon after the fulfillment of a mission from the

Government. He was appointed consul-general for Africa, that his official position might give him influence and authority in arranging for his explorations, and especially for an approach to the Sultan of Zanzibar in favor of Portuguese interests. His instructions ordered him mainly to explore the Nyassa lake and become better acquainted with the tribes on its shores, in order to enter into trading relations with them, and to open up, if possible, a commercial route to their region. This same object was also the animus of the mission of Mess. Capello and Ivens, who lately crossed Africa from the west to the east coast. In view of the energetic character of Major Pinto, his Government was prepared to see him pass the Nyassa, and come to light again in the west, but he was twice detained by sickness and then obliged to give up the idea of commanding the expedition through the interior. His representative and companion, naval officer Cordoso, took the party to Nyassa, and his geographical investigations are of much scientific interest.

CABLES, RAILROADS AND STEAMERS.

A sub-marine cable has been completed to St. Paul de Loando, thus placing West Central Africa in direct telegraphic communication with the world.

The Portuguese Government has authorized the construction of a railroad from St. Paul de Loando, on the west coast, to Ambaca, on the east coast, to be completed in four years. Mr. K. P. Crandall, of Ithaca, N. Y., is chief engineer, and Mr. George A. Steele, of Birmingham, Ala., is chief assistant engineer. Captain Thys, of the Belgian General Staff, who has been surveying at the Congo with a view to the building of a railway, declares that the part which he has examined offers no insurmountable difficulty. Another Portuguese line of steamers has been established for the west coast of Africa, and hereafter communication will be much more rapid than formerly. At present the time between Lisbon and Mossamedes is 28 days, which by the new line will be reduced to 18, while the time between Lisbon and St. Paul de Loando will be shortened from 23 to 13 days. The Government of the Congo State has accepted the offer of Messrs Walford & Co., of Antwerp, to run a monthly line of Belgian steamers between Antwerp and the Congo. When the Government of the Congo brought into existence a regular direct line of steamers between Antwerp and the Congo, through the contract made with Messrs. Walford, the English lines, which do most of the carrying trade between Liverpool and the West Coast of Africa, became uneasy. The new line was calculated to deprive them of a por-

tion of the traffic, and as Antwerp may become an entrepot for goods to be exported to and imported from Africa, it might also affect the Liverpool market unfavorably. It has been determined, therefore, to let the Liverpool steamers touch at Antwerp every month with a view to pick up cargo. At the same time the rates of freight have been reduced—that from Liverpool to St. Paul de Loando, which was hitherto 35s. per ton, has been reduced to 17s. per ton. Commercial relations between Aden and East Africa, north of Zanzibar, are developed by a regular line of steamers between Aden and the Somali ports.

GOLD AND DIAMONDS.

The quartz from the Sheba reef in the De Kaap Valley, Transvaal, yields from 10 to 30 ounces gold to the ton. The amount of gold that mining experts claim this reef contains is fabulous. But even this wonderful reef has been eclipsed by another reef discovered shortly after and known as the Thomas reef, samples of quartz weighing 3,000 pounds from which, it is claimed, yielded 148 ounces of gold. These discoveries naturally gave an impetus to prospecting on a large scale, resulting in the discovery of marvelously extensive and rich gold-quartz veins. The territory within which gold quartz has been found extends from Witwatersrand, 30 miles from the capital, Pretoria, easterly 200 miles to the De Kaap Valley, with a varying width of from 30 to 150 miles. These gold-bearing veins or reefs occur in patches of a more or less rich or payable character. Quartz taken from the Witwatersrand gold fields has yielded from 4 to 30 ounces gold to the ton. It is impossible, considering the embryonic state of these gold fields, to give anything like an accurate account of their extent or capabilities, but it may be safely claimed that the Transvaal fields will prove among the richest in the world. These discoveries have naturally given rise to no end of speculation and mining ventures, and a great rush of capitalists, miners, and adventurers has set in for the fields. Near the Shelba reef a city, Barberton, has sprung up as if by magic, numbering already 7,000 to 8,000 population, and is rapidly increasing. Barberton is situated in the De Kaap Valley in the northeastern portion of the Transvaal between latitude 25 and 26 south. The nearest seaport is Delagoa Bay, in the Portuguese possessions on the east coast, from which it is distant about 200 miles. This route is only available in the winter months, the prevalence of fever in the summer time effectually closing it to traffic A railway between Delagoa Bay and Pretoria is in course of construction and its completion will greatly facilitate communication with the fields. The next nearest route to Barberton is via Port Natal, dis-

tant 481 miles, of which 189 miles is by railway and the remainder by wagon. The best and most popular route at present is by way of Cape Town to Kimberly, 646 miles by rail, and from Kimberly to Pretoria, 360 miles by wagon. The journey is made by this route in from six to twenty days, at a cost of from $75 to$120, according to class and style of traveling. It seems probable that the gold-bearing reefs which have proved so productive in the Transvaal, extend into Natal. Within the past few weeks a reef rich in gold has been discovered at Umzinto, on the borders of the Ifafa reserve, and it is believed that there is a similar deposit near Umtwalume station of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions. There is much excitment throughout Natal.

The exports of diamonds from South Africa for the month of September, 1887, amounted to 253.391 carats, valued at £330,947.

TRADE.

Since the Berlin Conference allotted the upper part of the river to the care of France, and placed the lower portion, with the Binue, under the protection of Great Britain, little has been heard of the Niger. It was to an Englishman that the discovery of the river was due, and the Royal Niger Company may be spoken of as the direct representative of the traders who, forty years ago, endeavored to open up the Niger basin to commerce. After the death of M'Gregor Laird, the actual pioneer of British trade on the Niger, the ground was occupied by the West Africa Company and other firms. The amalgamation of these into one large private Company in 1879 followed, and in 1882 this Company was further developed as a public joint-stock association under the title of the National African Company. Of the two large French Companies which were the chief competitors of the new organization, one was driven from the field and the other was bought up. Thus the present Company, having retained its position by the operation of the law of the survival of the fittest, and having grown by absorbing all its most persistent and energetic competitors, may be considered to have earned the Royal Charter which was bestowed in July, 1886. Its claim to respect, however, is not based merely on its proved supremacy as a trading organization. It has made 237 treaties with native tribes, and it is asserted that it has so established itself in the good-will of the natives that no single tribe has refused to join the confederation which it is forming for trading and administrative purposes. The limits of its influence are being constantly extended. Already it has a station within 200 miles of the inland sea—lake Chad—which is supposed to feed some of

the western tributaries of the Nile, and it has made treaties with the extensive empires of Sokoto and Gando, which travelers have spoken of as offering practically unlimited opportunities for trade. It is reported that the Company has decided to send a mission inland to lake Chad itself, in order to establish trading relations on its shores and connecting waterways which will enable it to tap regions at present trading with the other outer world only by way of the Mediterranean and Red Sea coasts. Finally, by way of the Binue the Company seems likely to be brought almost in touch with the north-western portion of the Congo Free State and the waterways which join the Congo in that region.

At the "Seventh Ordinary General Meeting of the Shareholders of the Royal Niger Company," held in London, June 16, 1887, Lord Aberdare, Governor of the Company, presided and in a speech of remarkable clearness and fulness of detail, unfolded the origin, present status and methods of the Company. Among other things he said:—"What I wish to tell you is this—that whereas we have depended hitherto on rather a small number of articles, we shall look heareafter to reap the benefit of a very extended trade in articles not before taken into account. You must not suppose with respect to the past that we have been idle. I believe I am strictly within the truth when I say that since the formation of the Company, which has not had a very long existence, the whole volume of our trade has been fully doubled. What has happened, unfortunately, has been that there has been a very considerable reduction in the price of this produce. We published for your information, last year, what that reduction had been between 1884 and 1886, and I think we showed that in one of the principal articles, oil, the fall in price had been from £37 to £18 10s. At this moment I believe the price is £17 10s. I feel that a meeting of this sort can never terminate satisfactorily unless with the announcement of a dividend, and as you well know, I have no such announcement to make to-day. I should be very cautious indeed of giving any undue encouragement; but, on the other hand, I think it is my duty, on this occasion, to call attention to certain facts which should encourage us as to the future. When I stood here last year the accounts I had present showed that our liabilities on loans were £111,000. It is true that I was enabled to assure you that in the six months that had passed between the date of the accounts and the date of the meeting those liabilities had been reduced to £78,000. But such was our position then, that we were obliged to warn the shareholders that it might be necessary—though we did not deem it probable—to make a call in the course

of a few months. I am happy to say there has been no necessity for such call. You find a reduction in our accounts on the 31st of December, of those liabilities to £48,000, and I am happy now to announce to you that the whole of those liabilities, with the exception of a few hundred pounds, will, at the end of this month, have entirely disappeared; we shall have got rid of the whole of that incubus of debt. There is another point. Last year we were obliged most sorrowfully to admit that, so far from making our usual profit, we had made a loss of £38,000; but this included a sum of over £20,000 for depreciation. The present state of the accounts shows that we have made a profit, in fact, of £28,000 this year, though about £20,000 has been applied in providing, as has been done very fully, for depreciation of our stock. There is a third point to which I would call your attention. You will see the report says that the ordinary trade liabilities on open accounts and bills payable, which in the previous balance-sheet stood at the moderate amount of £72,000, were reduced by the 31st of December, 1886, to £46,000. Now I can easily understand that gentlemen before me might say, "Yes, that is apparently satisfactory, and there is a diminution there between £20,000 and £30,000 of our ordinary trade liabilities, but does not that show rather a diminished volume of trade, because those accounts show, in fact, what were the purchases we were making for the purpose of bartering in those countries?" To that I have to give the explanation that the purchasing power of the goods is necessarily larger when the prices of produce are low than when they are high. Take, for instance, the price of oil, which has fallen 50 per cent. It does not require the same amount of goods for us to purchase the same amount of produce that we formerly had to give. There is another point which is of interest and importance, which is, that since we were here last year, we have obtained telegraphic communication with the Niger, and the result is that we are able to adapt stocks of goods much more closely than formerly to the requirements of trade. Formerly, when communication was slow, we were obliged to have large quantities of stock on hand; we were obliged to provide for possibilities. Now, with telegraphic communication, it is not necessary to keep this large stock-in-trade. These are favorable matters, which should not be kept back. I am as adverse as any man can be to giving undue encouragement, but on the other hand I do not think that we ought to adopt the report without fully considering what are the encouraging circumstance since I had last the honor of addressing you in this position."

During the discussion on the adoption of the Report, Mr. H. H. Howorth, M. P., said: "I feel that this company is not altogether a

trading company, but a *very great political undertaking*, that will have to be developed very much upon the lines of the East India Company." Mr. Howorth seems to have expressed the feeling of the meeting.

Those familiar with Livingstone's later explorations will remember that his investigations resulted in the discovery of lake Nyassa, which empties its waters into the Zambesi, the Shire serving as a conduit. The dream of his life was to utilize the extensive waterway for the introduction of commerce, in order that the tribes there might have an opportunity of turning the wealth of their country to good account, and not be dependent for every yard of calico or string of beads. In common with all African rivers, the Shire has its cataracts, and thus a clear run from the Indian Ocean from the Zambesi to lake Nyassa is impossible. A "portage" of 75 miles halfway between the lake and the Zambesi is a necessity. However, with the help of some old comrades, a new attempt was resolved upon in the year 1878. Mr. E. D. Young, a gunner in the English Navy, had seen just where the breaking point lay previously, and when he was invited to assist in resuscitating plans, he rendered invaluable service. Sent out by the Royal Geographical Society to investigate the story of Livingstone's reported murder in 1876, he was able to try thoroughly the experiment of transporting boats in sections. His vessel, the Search, was put together under the supervision of the Admiralty authorities, and proved a success during Mr. Young's successful adventure. With the experience of this last trip, Mr. Young received a commission from the Established and Free Churches of Scotland to provide them with a similar steam vessel, and the Ilala was built and placed on lake Nyassa, at the service of the missionaries. It speaks well for the future that Emin Pasha has the above-named vessel still afloat. The Ilala is reported "as "tight as a bottle," after ten years' seamanship, during which she has had to weather many a heavy gale.

The African Lakes Company was formed in 1878, to assist the various missions then established, and to work out Livingstone's schemes. It had its days of small things and its successes, but it can boast steady development through all. Twenty-five Europeans are dotted about at trading stations stretching from Quillimane, on the coast, to a point half-way between the lakes Nyassa and Tanganyika. These stations are twelve in number, and three steamers ply on lake and river with regularity. The company has shown itself equal to conveying a steam vessel in sections across from lake Nyassa, and she is now on lake Tanganyika with the staff of the London Missionary Society. But the point which the company has settled is this:

It has proved that it is possible to trade in India-rubber, wax, oil-seeds and ivory to an enormous amount without defiling the list of their barter with a single keg of trade rum, or the all representative "square-face" of the West Coast trade.

In the meeting held recently at Brussels to constitute the Congo Company the capital required was more than subscribed. The shares were for the most part taken by the industrial houses, the banking establishments, and the manufacturers of Gand, Verviers, Namur and Liege. Robaix and Antwerp, Morlanwelz, and and other industrial centres are represented on the board of directors. M. de Brazza not only purchased a large quantity of goods during his recent visit to Rouen, but he ordered a new screw steamer, called the Alima, to carry them on the waters of the upper Congo.

For centuries Zanzibar was the chief mart of ivory, which was brought partly from the coast and partly from the interior. But with the increased consumption of that article elephants are being exterminated, and have to be sought far away in the interior to the west of Tanganyika and northwest of Victoria Nyanza. The chief trading centre in the interior is Tabara, in Myamwesi, where various caravan routes meet. The practice at present is for traders to equip a caravan in Zanzibar, and place it in charge of a trustworthy Arab, who takes it from Bagamoyo, opposite Zanzibar, to Tabara. If he finds enough ivory there he exchanges goods which he has brought for the purpose, and starts for the return journey; but, as a rule, the caravan has to go further, and by the information he receives from returning caravans the conductor judges where he can go with most chance of speedy success.

Large quantities of ivory are usually in the hands of native chiefs, with whom it is a kind of treasure, and sometimes, it is said, the Arab conductors, who are accompanied by well-armed escorts, will make war on a chief, seize his ivory, and sell his people into slavery. If force cannot be used, the trader must patiently purchase small quantities from time to time as occasion arises, and sometimes he is forced to wait for years in the interior before he can part with all his merchandise and obtain his loads of ivory. The greater part of the ivory arrives in Zanzibar in July and August; the Indian merchants go to Bagamoyo to meet their conductors, and then a settlement takes place. The cost of the caravan, with 15 per cent. per annum, is charged to the Arab, the Indian takes the ivory, sells it on account of the Arab and pays the latter the balance. Arrived in Zanzibar, the ivory is either sent by the Indian merchants direct to Bombay or to London, or it is sold to Hamburg or American merchants on the spot.

The close connection between the ivory and the slave trade in the interior must always act as a hindrance to Europeans trading at first hand in ivory. The Arabs usually transport the ivory to the coast by means of natives whom they have enslaved or purchased at very low prices, and then can sell the latter on the coast at a profit of ten dollars a head. European traders, on the other hand, must pay the bearers five dollars a month and an arm's length of cotton stuff per day. No statistics exist respecting the annual export from Zanzibar, but for ten years past it has been pretty regular. In the past thirty-five years the price has trebled. About 1840, ivory cost one dollar a pound; now it costs three dollars. Large tusks weighing 150 lbs. to 190 lbs, are much rarer than they were ten years since, and the number of smaller tusks has greatly increased. Zanzibar ivory stands higher in the market than that from Abyssinia, Egypt, or the West coast. The export from Mozambique and the north and south Somali coasts is comparatively small.

GERMAN ENTERPRISE.

Since the middle of 1884, Germany's establishments in Africa have made much progress. It already has under its dominions three extensive regions, the bonndaries of which were fixed by treaties concluded with England, France, and Portugal. On the west coast the Germans possess the Cameroons, giving them the command of the most direct road from the sea toward lake Tchad; and they also hold Namaqualand, where Herr Luderlitz, at Angra Pequena, founded an establishment. The future of the latter colony is not so promising as that of the Cameroons, but it is bounded on the east by the Zambesi, which is an extensive waterway. The principal German colony in Africa is that on the eastern side, which extends from the coast to the three great central lakes—Tanganyika, Nyassa and Victoria Nyanza—and by which Germany holds, in a political sense, one-half of Central Africa. Intelligence has been received from Zanzibar that the Germans are about to establish custom-houses and the seat of their political operations on the east coast at Dar-es-Salam, a port which promises to control Zanzibar.

The German East African Company has established another station—viz., at Port Durnford, at the mouth of the Wubuschi; so that it now possesses the following stations: 1, Usagarahaus, Zanzibar, (officers in charge, Hornecke and Rhule); 2, Bagamoyo, depot for Usaramo and Usagara, (von Bulow;) 3, Danda, (Lieut Krenzler); 4, Madimola, (von St. Paul and Groke); 5, Usaungula, (von Zelewski and Graham); 6, Sima (Liedtke); 7, Kiora (v. Wittich); 8, Mbusini,

(Hermes and Sager); 9, Korogwe, (Braun, Brasche, and Zboril); 10, Kilesi, (v. Anderten, Mariani, and Wood).

The spinning and weaving firm who had been entrusted by the German East African Company with the testing of some samples of east African cotton, have issued a report in which they say that the latter proves to be an excellent cotton, and is likely to make a name for itself. The sample is of a good, but rather uneven-length, and shows a beautiful, strong, silky fibre, rendering it an excellent spinning material. The only faults noticable were the unequal lengths of the staple, and the spottiness of the color. Both these faults could be easily remedied by an improved cultivation under the direction of experienced planters from other cotton-growing countries. In that case it would not be too much to expect that the cotton produced by Germany's east African colonies will soon be recognized as one of the staple products of the international market, as with these faults rectified it would prove quite equal, or at least very little inferior, to the Egyptian product.

The German West African Company has purchased, during the short time that it has existed, goods of a total value of £5000 for the west African trade. About 100 German firms have been engaged in the delivery of these goods, which are reported to have given satisfaction to the dealers and natives in Africa. The total inventory represents a value of £9000, including £4000 for buildings, slaughter-house apparatus, machines, tools, freight trucks, draught oxen, horses, boats, &c. The Company employs twenty German and thirty native officials, and various others, in all sixty-three. The number of members amounts to 130. Among these eighty belong to the industrial class, while the remaining fifty consist of officers, civil servants, professors, schoolmasters, doctors, and gentlemen of private means. Encouraged by the success which has attended its efforts, the Company intends to widen its operations considerably. A soap and candle factory is to be established, and a glue-boiling works, glue being in demand in west Africa. In addition to this fishing is to be pursued and a guano factory established. The production of raw India rubber will also be undertaken. To render these additional operations possible the Company proposes to raise its ground capital by about £10,000.

The representative of the German West African Company, Baron von Steinacker, concluded a treaty on the 6th July with the King of Damaraland, according to which the Company obtained unlimited trade rights, and permission to settle down in Damaraland, to establish cattle stations, and to obtain free grants of land suitable to their

needs. The treaty has been officially signed by Dr. Goring, the Imperial Commissioner.

Under the title of "The Society for the Promotion of German Interests in South Africa," a new company has been recently called into life having for its principal object the formation of a central station for the furtherance of German interests in south Africa. The Company will place itself in a position to gain intimate knowledge of the customs, trade, and condition of the country, and will put such information at the disposal of all interested Germans. It will also endeavor to strengthen the relations between Germany, German colonies, and the south African States, and will give unqualified support to the endeavors of Germans in that part of the continent to keep alive the language, manners, and customs of their fatherland. Exploring and investigation parties will be occasionally despatched to the most important agricultural districts of south Africa, the expenses connected with which will be defrayed by the Company, presuming on a certain amount of Government support, and everything possible will be done to establish the relations between the natives and the settlers on the most friendly footing,

THE SLAVE TRADE.

An English Blue book has been published containing last year's correspondence on the slave trade. The letters are grouped under the name of the country to which they refer. Eighteen letters deal with Africa (from which Egypt is excluded) and Arabia. Several British ships were on the east coast of Africa during the year, and a large number of slave vessels were caught and condemned, and tables appended to the report give particulars as to the number of vessels and the number and condition of slaves caught by Her Majesty's ships. To this part belong other reports as to the slave importation between the two shores of the Red Sea (under the heads of Turkey and Italy) and as to Zanzibar. Under the head of Egypt are given thirty-two dispatches, many of which refer to the capture of slave dhows and to the reception of fugitive slaves on board Brittish vessels of war. Several returns are added, some of which, by Col. Schaefer, the head of the Department for the Suppression of the Slave Trade, are interesting. Thus, in April, 1886, Colonel Schaefer states that in six months thirty-six persons, many of them professional dealers, had been tried by court-martial for buying or selling slaves; of these thirteen were condemned, four acquitted, ten were still under judgment, and nine were released for want of evidenee. The report as to the progress of the Home for Women Slaves in Cairo, founded by

the efforts of Mr. Clifford Lloyd and Mrs. Sheldon Amos, is encouraging. In May, 1886, 170 women had been received into the Home, most of them Negresses, a few Circassians, and a few Abyssinians. According to another report, drawn up by Colonel Schaefer, in the twelve months previous to May, 1885 (that is, before the Slavery Department took over the working of the Manumission Bureaux), the number of slaves freed in Egypt proper amounted to 1,032. In the following year that number increased to 2,786, of whom 853 were the property of Dongola refugees. In 1883 there were thirty-two slave dealers in Cairo; there are now only four or five, and they only act as brokers. The attention of the Government having been called to the alleged transit of slaves through the Canal, a strict watch was ordered to be kept at Suez, and some of these dispatches relate to the liberation of slaves at that port,

THE LIQUOR TRAFFIC.

Few men are more fitted to testify concerning the extent to which liquor trafficking with the native races of Africa has reached than Mr. James Irvine, of Liverpool, and the following extract from a communication from him speaks volumes: "It is very difficult to give you an account of the ramifications of the drink traffic on the west coast of Africa, not because there is little to be said, but because it is only a repetition of the oft-told story in every part of the world. The extent of the trade is so prodigious that I think the following estimate of the quantity annually poured into the delta of the Niger relieves me from the necessity of further remark concerning this evil. . . . I am sure I do not over-estimate the quantity when I put it down at 60,000 hogsheads of 50 gallons each as the annual consumption in the rivers." Mr. Joseph Thomson, the eminent African traveler, recently laid before the members of the Manchester Geographical Society his views upon this subject. "In the notorious gin trade lies a greater evil than slavery. It is, indeed, a scandal and a shame. . . . We talk of civilizing the Negro and introducing the blessings of European trade, while at the same time we pour into this unhappy country incredible quantities of gin, rum, gunpowder and guns. . . . The trade in spirits is simply enormous. The appetite for it increases out of all proportion to the desire for better things; and, to our shame be it said, we are ever ready to supply the victims to the utmost, driving them deeper and deeper into the slough of depravity, while at home we talk sanctimoniously as if the introduction of our trade and the elevation of the Negro went hand in hand."

It is well known that there are millions of Africans on their native continent who never drink ardent spirits; to whom they are re-

pulsive as a beverage. It is only on the coasts where, through contact with European trade, the unhallowed and fatal thirst has been created that the African is fond of it. Mungo Park, a hundred years ago, noticed the process of demoralization going on on the coast and denounced it then in the severest terms. Winwood Reade, the traveler, affirms that 200 miles east of Sierra Leone, in 1869, in a purely pagan district, the natives were strangers to the poison, and one of them who had a bottle of whisky in his possession showed it to Mr. Reade as a sovereign remedy for leprosy, entirely ignorant of its demoralizing uses. The native, left to himself, has no "propensity to strong drink to be pandered to." His weaknesses, both on the subject of drink and in the matter of the slave trade, have been brought upon him by the insatiable greed of the foreign trader.

Before dispatching the first company of emigrants, November 27, 1833, for the new colony of "Maryland in Liberia," the Maryland State Colonization Society adopted the following among other resolutions reported by a committee of which Hon. John H. B. Latrobe was chairman:—

"*Whereas*, it is desired that the settlement about to be made should, as far as practicable, become a moral and temperate community, which is to be effected in a great degree by the character of the emigrants who many leave America for a new home in Africa: and *Whereas*, the sad experience of this country has shown the demoralizing effect of the use of ardent spirits; be it *Resolved*, that no emigrant shall be permitted to go from America to a settlement of the Society in Africa, who shall not first bind himself or herself to abstain therefrom."

"*Fifth*. That the principle of abstaining from the use of ardent spirits, except for medicinal purposes, be incorporated into the local government of the settlements of this Society in Africa, so that no person shall be capable of holding office therein who shall not first pledge himself to abstain from the use of, or traffic in, ardent spirits, with the above exception."

This was a bold and righteous stand, and nobly did Dr. James Hall, the Agent appointed to carry out the law, abide by his instructions. For three hundred years the natives of the coast had been demoralized by drink. Slave traders had been accustomed to instruct their agents to distribute freely rum, gunpowder and fire-arms, and it was thought at that time impossible, as it is now thought impossible, to enter into any engagements, commercial or political, with African tribes without the use of ardent spirits. All honor to the Maryland State Colonization Society and to Dr. James Hall, their firm and unyielding Agent, that they set an example which ought to

have been set long before and ought now to be followed by powerful governments in their dealings with the natives!

It will be a serious drawback in the efforts of the International Association in the Congo country that they allow ardent spirits to enter as a prominent element into their negotiations with the natives. Mr. Stanley says with evident emotion: "I beg to assure you that if it depended on me I would have no more to do with rum than with poison, but the traders have so supplied the people with it that without it friendship or trade is impossible on the Lower Congo. Our Kabindas, the people who will be left in charge of the station, will not work without rum. * * * * * * Every visitor to our camp on this part of the Congo, if he has a palaver with us, must first receive a small glass of rum or gin. A chief receives a bottleful, which he distributes teaspoonful by teaspoonful among his followers. * * * * * I see by the returns of the station chief that we consume 125 gallons of rum monthly by distributing grog rations, and native demands for it in lieu of a portion of their wages." *The Congo Frèe State*, Vol. I, pp. 158, and 193.

The liquor traffic is one of the most deadly influences in Africa. The Mohammedans are fighting it on the Niger. It is not likely to permeate the countries east of Sierra Leone and Liberia. When it reaches a certain distance from the coast its destructive course is arrested by the vigilance and energy of Islam. Liberia is doing her part also. An enthusiastic Temperance concert was held at Clay-Ashland on the 13th of April. A gill of spirits cannot be bought in that settlement. The Arthington people have extinguished the trade in their town and neighborhood. If Colonization—the only agency able to do it—will scatter settlements like Clay-Ashland and Arthington in the interior, they would be efficient and welcome auxiliaries to the Mohammedans. Isolated missionaries are followed by the rum-seller: and they are helpless to check his contemptuous proceedings. What purely mission station could make such a law as Arthington has made and enforce it?

With the work of African regeneration no agency is so competent to deal as the American Colonization Society. The American Negro furnishing the industrial element in organized communities will gradually open to the natives a path to higher destinies and they will be gradually, but effectually converted, not as individuals but as communities.

MISSIONS.

The British and American Missionary Societies operating in Africa, with the statistics of their work, are given in the following table :

British Societies.	Missionaries.			Nat. Pastors and Helpers.	Communicants.
	Ord.	Lay.	Women.		
Church	17	12	4	277	4,164
Universities' Missions	26	23	14	....	.....
Society for Propagation of the Gospel,	122	..	12	218	5,341
London	48	1	..	6,052	.....
United Free Methodist,	10	..	..	233	
Primitive Methodist,	2	..	..	14	3,035
Church of Scotland,	2	5	1	....	181
Free Church of Scotland,	15	15	9	138	.....
Baptists,	20	5	..	....	8,280
Wesleyan Methodists,	33	..	30	1,427	.....
United Presbyterian Ch. of Scotland,	17	2	9	69	15,107
Moravians,	58	..	..	336	2,073
Friends,	..	7	20	....	2,828
Bible Society,	6	..	..	....	3,500
					.....
American Societies.					
American Board,	17	..	25	....	866
Baptist Missionary Union,	12	1	7	11	429
Presbyterian,	9	2	12	22	868
Southern Baptist,	6	5	3	8	125
United Brethren,	4	5	..	53	3,929
Protestant Episcopal,	2	..	1	42	540
African Methodist	1	..	1	....	.....
Methodist Episcopal,	..	.	..	76	2,490
Bishop Taylor's Missions,	11	22	16	....	.....
Lutheran,	1	..	1	1	81
Free Methodist,	4	..	4	...	.....
United Presbyterian,	9	1	16	219	1,843
Western Colored Baptist,	1	1	1	....	.....

In North Africa, missions are located in Morocco, Algiers, Tunis, Abyssinia, and Egypt. One of the most flourishing of all the missions in this region is that of the American United Presbyterian Church. It has occupied the field more than thirty years, and has many centres and a large native as well as American agency employed. Most of the stations are on the Nile, south of Cairo, with sixty-five schools, and five thousand four hundred and fourteen scholars. Fifty-seven of these schools are supported by the fees of the native congregations. The converts are mostly from among the Copts.

In East and East Central Africa, mission work has been carried on at great expense of money and life. It was in this region that

Bishop Hannington fell, and here also the native Christians, under Mwanga's rule, proved themselves faithful until death.

In south Africa, mission work has been done among the Caffrarians, the Zulus, the Basutos, and other tribes. In the vicinity of the European colonies, the natives have been brought to some extent under the influence of Christian civilization. The Free Church of Scotland has an important school at Lovedale, about seven hundred miles northeast of Cape Town. Besides the literary and theological course, various trades are taught—carpentering, printing, book-binding, wagon-making, tailoring, etc.

On the west coast of Africa, the American Presbyterian mission has been harrassed and impeded by the French authorities, and the statement is published that the work will probably be transferred to some other point. The English and American Baptists have been doing valuable work on the Congo, and lately an account was given of a very remarkable work of grace in connection with this mission, which resulted in the conversion of over a thousand of the natives. On the river Niger the Church Missionary Society of England established a mission thirty years ago, under the leadership of the well-known African Bishop Crowther.

Rev. H. H Messenger, formerly a missionary of the American Episcopal Church to Liberia, writes: "On reading Bishop Ferguson's account of his reception at Cape Palmas on his return as Bishop, a realizing sense of God's mercy and goodness filled my heart with thankfulness. Twenty six years ago, three married couples of us passed through the same place; the orphan girls of the school coming down on the rocks and singing for us; the big waves soon after rolling heavily in, making us catch our breath as they lifted the boat and rushed us forward at nearly railroad speed. We were strangers, and of a different race, yet received by friends because of the Name of Jesus. Now what do we behold? One of their own number, exalted to the highest position in the Church of God, goes back to them to be their guide in spiritual matters. He was but a boy in school when I was there, remembered ever since as very apt and ready at the examinations which we attended, under the faithful drilling of the Rev. Dr. Crummell, All the white missionaries composing our force then, have long since ceased their labors there; some lying in the graveyards in Africa; some in graves in America; a few yet alive in hoary age. But the work goes on, now more certain to be permanent, doubtless, than before; for instead of an alien here and there striving against the dangers of the climate and doing what he could to create a light in the darkness for a few years, and then suc-

cumbing to disease, and dying or forced to leave the mission; now men of the same race, able to bear the climate, having their families and all their interest there *to stay*. All this promises permanence in the work."

Bishop Taylor has determined to use Liberia with its settled communities of Christian Africans, with its organized government, recognized by the nations, its industrial and educational appliances, and its social regulations, as a base and support of his operations. He has arranged for opening a dozen industrial schools, the kings and chiefs of each tribe visited agreeing to plant and attend to the first crops of food required by the mission, and to furnish sites for buildings, and all the land required for farming and grazing purposes; and to build cook-houses, school-houses, and mission houses; while the Bishop agrees to provide teachers, preachers, and all other things necessary to put the missions upon a self-supporting basis. Five of these new stations on the Cavalla river, which enters the ocean near Cape Palmas, are the business centers of inland tribes from which thousands of people can be reached. This river, navigable by steamboats, is reported by the Bishop as having high banks and hills as healthy as those of our own Hudson.

Congo Land now has also its Roman Catholic Bishop; the Arch-Bishop of Paris having consecrated the missionary priest Corrie, in conformity to an order from the Pope, Bishop of Congo Land. Monsignor Corrie is almost forty years old, and is described as an uncommonly active and energetic missionary, who knows how to put his hands to everything, and in the latest field of his operations was school-master, engineer, and all in all as a pioneer of civilization. A few months ago he founded a mission station nearly 200 miles above Stanley Pool. The new apostolic vicar will be accompanied by about forty co-workers and several of the sisters of Saint Joseph, who will open schools for boys and girls, and will teach the women the handi-work of civilization. The future episcopal seat will be in Loango.

The Bible has been translated into sixty-six of the languages of Africa. The Semitic family has 10 distinct languages and 9 dialects; the Hamitic, 29 languages and 27 dialects; the Nuba-Fulah, 17 languages and 7 dialects; the Negro, 195 languages and 49 dialects; the Bantu, 163 languages and 55 dialects; and the Hottentot-Bushman, 14 languages and 6 dialects—the six families having 438 languages and 153 dialects, a total of 591. It may lead to a better understanding if it is stated that, of these families or groups, the Semitic, the Nuba-Fulah and the Bantu have each two branches, the Hamitic and Hottentot-Bushman three and the Negro four. Of these languages—

of which it is impossible to gvie the names—the Bible, in whole or in part, has been translated into sixty-six. The following have the entire Bible: The Arabic, Amharic, Koptic, Ashantee, Akva, Yoruba, Efik, Zulu, Kaffir, Sesuto and Sechuana—the American Bible Society publishing the Arabic and the Zulu translations, and the Scotch Bible Society the Efik, while the Koptic translation is still in manuscript, and the British and Foreign Bible Society publish the remaining seven. As experiences on the west coast of Africa and the history of the English and of Luther's Bible indicate that when the language of a country is in a state of transition it will gravitate around a translation of the scriptures, it seems reasonably certain that considerably less than 100 translations will meet the wants of the entire African Continent.

The colonial enterprizes of France and Germany have awakened a general interest in African Missionary labors among the citizens of the French Republic and of the German Empire. The sixty-first annual report of the Evangelical Missionary Society of Paris gives particulars of its work for 1885-86. Its mission are five in number, and are established in South Africa and upon the river Zambezi, in Tahiti, in Senegal, and in Algiers. The number of French missionaries, not including wives and lady assistants, is thirty-four. The total money receipts for the year were 320,000 francs. The South African Mission among the Basutos, west of Natal, is the largest, reporting sixteen stations and twenty-three French missionaries, with forty-four out-stations, manned by 142 native helpers. The Society has decided to begin a mission on the right bank of the Congo, where the French possess about 300 miles of country. In conjunction with Christian teaching, the Society hopes to add something to the scientific knowledge of Africa, and to this end the "French Association for the Advaneement of Science" has granted it a subvention.

In Germany, a number of new Missions in Africa have been commenced. The Basle Missionary Society has sent five laborers to the Cameroons, where the English Baptists have committed their work to the Baselers, and removed to the Congo. In New Guinea, in King William's Land, the Rhine Missionary Society, the Neuendettelsauer Missionary Society, and the Allgemeine Evangelical Protestantische Missions-Verein, have either already commenced, or purpose to commence missionary work in the new German domain. A new Lutheran Missionary Society in Bavaria, one in Berlin, and a third one, the Neukirchner Missionary Society, are making preparations to do mission work in East Africa. The East African Missionary Society

has been formed in Berlin, for operations in the German dominions in southern Equatorial Africa and Somali-land, having in mind both the German settlers and the native populations. A well-known missionary, Mr. Greiner, late of the Saint Chrischona Mission, led the first party.

MOHAMMEDANISM.

Under the title of "Mohammedanism in Central Africa," a late number of *The Contemporary Review* has a striking article by Mr. Joseph Thompson, well known as an explorer in Africa, especially on the eastern coast. Mr. Thomson states that when he visited the Soudan he found a people not contaminated by contact with Europeans; not corrupted by the vile liquors which had been brought from Europe or America, but living sober and industrious lives and far advanced on the road to civilization. In the villages, as well as the larger towns of the Soudan, he found men who could read and write in Arabic, and there were some who, not content with the education they could find at home, had become students at the Mohammedan University in Cairo. Simply as a result of the introduction of Mohammedanism, as he affirms, these various tribes had become welded together; the people had abandoned their fetiches and their idolatrous worship, and were calling, in prayer, upon one God, whose power and love they acknowledged. Mr. Thomson affirms that the condition of these Soudanese people was vastly superior to that of any African tribes he had seen, and he is forced to the conclusion that their better condition is the result of the Moslem faith which they have received. Of course our writer does not apologize for the crimes that are committed in the name of Mohammedanism, but he affirms that these crimes should be no more charged to their faith than should the corruption in Christian or nominally Christian lands be ascribed to the teachings of our Saviour.

This report of a careful observer is certainly surprising. We have not been accustomed to look for good results from that quarter. Still it is not difficult to see that monotheism in its effect upon any community must be vastly better than polytheism, and that a religion that calls for the worship of an unseen God, the Maker of all things, is more elevating than one that peoples the world with fetiches to be worshiped with degrading rites. Since the rules of Islam are rigidly in favor of abstinence from strong drink, it should be expected that wherever that faith had gained sufficient power over the natives to induce them to abstain from their own *pombe* and to reject the worse rum and gin of the foreigner, there would be a vast decrease of cruelty and crime and a reinvigoration of the better elements of human nature.

In a neat volume of 423 pages, published by Messrs, W. B. Whittingham & Co., London, appears fifteen of the excellent papers contributed at several times to English and American magazines by the eminent Negro scholar, Dr. Edward W. Blyden. The learned author has, by many years of close observation in both hemispheres, and careful study of the characteristic features of his race, succeeded in securing the enviable and unique position of one competent to assert with authority, views touching the present and future prospects of the millions of Negroes on the African Continent. The author's vast erudition and wide experience are sufficient guarantees that in this book will be found questions of vital interest to every thoughtful Negro—questions handled in so masterly a manner, and so elaborately treated, that the perusal of its pages will undoubtedly afford unlimited pleasure and untold benefit to the careful reader.

The three leading subjects discussed form the title of the book: "Christianity, Islam, and the Negro Race," the last of which occupies a conspicuous part in every article treated, evidencing thereby that one of Dr. Blyden's points was to view the relative position of his race to every great question. In one of the author's articles occurs the following passage: "Christianity is not only not a local religion, but it has adapted itself to the people wherever it has gone. No language or social existence has been any barrier to it, and I have thought that in this country it will acquire wider power, deeper influence, and become instinct with a higher vitality than anywhere else. When we look at the treatment which our own race, and other so-called inferior races have received from Christian races, we cannot but be struck with the amazing dissimilitude and disproportion between the original idea of Christianity, as expressed by Christ, and the practice of it by his professed followers."

The author is not only a student of books but a student of men as well. For years he has been studying the character of the Negro in various lights, those brought in contact with western civilization as well as those in the heart of their native continent. In the expeditions which he led into the interior, and by which he was brought into personal acquaintance with thousands of pure Negroes who had never approached the coast, he saw a great deal to admire, which furnished matter for thought and careful consideration. If he has written favorably of Mohammedan Negroes it is because he was impressed with the manliness, true nobility, and earnest devotion of the thousands with whom he came in contact in Nigritia, and whom he could not describe apart from their religious belief. The author looks forward to the time when the millions of Muslims the world over will

acknowledge the sovereignty of the Prince of Peace, and when there will be "one fold and one shepherd."

Turning from the title page our attention is drawn to the Preface, and in the first paragraph the author states the reason which led to the publication of the book. He writes: "The Colonial and Indian Exhibition of 1886, which has brought together, in London, men of all races and climes, and of almost every degree of civilization has been the immediate occasion—not the cause—of the publication of this volume." * * * "Much has been written about Africa and the African. The character, position, and destiny of the Negro race, have been discussed by Europeans of every nationality. Travelers from all parts of the civilized world have visited the country and have furnished facts—or what seemed to be facts—for brilliant essayists and incisive critics. But very little has been written by the African himself of his country and people, very little—that is, which has attracted the attention of the higher class of readers in Enrope and America."

In the third article in the book on "Christian Missions in West Africa," occurs the subjoined passage: "The attempt to Europeanize the Negro in Africa will always be a profitless task. This is the feeling of the most advanced minds of the race. If it were possible—which, happily, it is not—to civilize and Christianize the whole of Africa according to the notions of some Europeans, neither would the people themselves nor the outside would be any great galners by it, for the African would then fail of the ability to perform his specific part in the world's work, as a distinct portion of the human race. * * There is a solidarity of humanity which requires the complete development of each part in order to the effective working of the whole. To make the African a parasite upon the European would be no gain to mankind. The problem, it appears to us, which the imagination, the wisdom, and the Christian charity of the missionary world has to solve is, how to elevate the African, or enable him to elevate himself, according to the true Christian standard, upon the basis of his own idiosyncracies. Any progress made otherwise must be unreal, unsatisfactory, precarious, transitory."

The author closes the fourth article, "The Aims and Methods of a Liberal Education for the African," in the following words:—"We have a great work before us, a work unique in the history of the world, which others who appreciate its vastness and importance, envy us the privilege of doing. . . . Let us show ourselves equal to the task. The time is past when we can be content with putting forth elaborate arguments to prove our equality with foreign

races. Those who doubt our capacity are more likely to be convinced of their error by the exhibition, on our part, of those qualities of energy and enterprise which will enable us to occupy the extensive field before us for our own advantage and the advantage of humanity—for the purpose of civilization, of science, and of progress generally—than by any mere abstract argument about the equality of races. The suspicions disparaging to us will be dissipated only by the exhibition of the indisputable realities of a lofty manhood as they may be illustrated in successful efforts to build up a nation, to wrest from nature her secrets, to lead the van of progress. and to regenerate a continent."

Our space does not permit us to enumerate other articles in the book, but each one is of peculiar interest. No intelligent Negro should be without a copy—not so much as a souvenir of the author's researches and labors, but as a *vade-mecum* on questions having reference to the vitality of the race. Dr. Blyden, by these excellent articles, has laid his race under great obligations, whether on the American or African Continent.

LIBERIA.

Rev. G. W. Gibson writes from Monrovia, August 3:—"Matters are moving on about as usual here at this time of the year. It being the rainy season trade is dull, but we are more than repaid in the activity and progress which mark our agricultural pursuits. The farmers are busily engaged in cleaning out and extending their sugar and coffee plantations, as well as in raising larger quantities of rice, potatoes, eddoes, etc., for home consumption. The rise in the price of coffee this year has encouraged the planters very much indeed."

The Mayor of Monrovia states:—"The late rise in the price of coffee, and the demand for it, have stimulated our farmers to renewed exertion, and they are enlarging the area of its cultivation. Send us hard-working farmers, and give us good, plain schools, and Liberia's prosperity and success will be greatly hastened."

A dispatch of Consul General Lewis, at Sierra Leone, published in the United States Consular Reports, says:—"The country [Liberia] seems particularly adapted to the successful raising of coffee, and this Liberian coffee has, within the last two years, acquired, I believe, a reputation very high. The immigrants from the United States, especially in recent years, have devoted more attention to its cultivation. They are pushing their settlements towards the interior and enlarging their farms. Some of the Liberian farmers and merchants have made money, and live in comfortable and even elegant style. In

the month of July last four Liberian merchants, from different parts of the Republic, passed here [Sierra Leone] on board the English mail steamer on their way to Europe for business or pleasure. They were all colored men, born in the United States, and emigrated to Liberia as children.'

A letter from Dr. Edward W. Blyden reads:—"The Baptists are doing more in a self-supporting way for missionary work in Liberia than any other denomination. They have established at Sublung, about twenty miles from Monrovia, a flourishing mission. This church has just been completed and will soon be dedicated, and they have founded the Rick's Institute, at the same town, for the education of native youth. The school has been named after Mr. Moses W. Ricks, a thriving farmer in Clay-Ashland, who has given $500 in cash towards the endowment of the school. Mr. Ricks is a pure Negro sent to Liberia, an emancipated slave, by the American Colonization Society, about thirty-three years ago. Arthington not only holds its own but is progressing. Messrs. Solomon Hi l and June Moore will produce this season 10,000 pounds of coffee, besides large quantities of ginger and other articles for domestic use. The settlement will produce 100,000 pounds of coffee this season. The religious work is interesting. Sixty-six natives have been received into the Baptist church, and the schools contain many native children."

Bishop Ferguson reports:—"*Clay-Ashland Station.* The Rev. J. W. Blacklidge has commenced a good work here. Through the generosity of a few of the enterprising citizens of the settlement he has built a school-house, which serves also as a chapel. One of the gentlemen—the Hon. Mr. Coleman—offers to give $150 for the first year and $50 per annum afterward toward the salary of a competent female teacher, who shall be able, among other things, to give instruction in music. As such an offer should not pass unheeded, I hope soon to be in a position to take it up."

A prominent divine in Ohio makes an important suggestion in the following language:—"With all the discussion going on throughout the country as to the disposal of the *surplus* in the United States Treasury, what a pity that legislators of all names could not unite in giving some of it to the American Colonization Society. What an immense amount of good one million of dollars would do! How much more one million of dollars a year until the *superfluous* funds, which neither party knows what to do with, is drawn out and put to valuable use. If our politicians could only think of something else than what promotes party ends or personal advantage! There seems to be no constitutional difficulty in sending men and using money for

Arctic explorations, and many other enterprizes of questionable utility. Why not think of the incalculable advantages to commerce, to religion, to civilization, which the Colonization Society could effect by funds?"

There are several reasons why the relations of the United States and Liberia should be closer and kinder than such as ordinarily exist between two independent nations.

First. Liberia had its origin, as its history shows, in the philanthropic sentiments of citizens of the United States, and although advocated subsequently, no doubt, from mixed motives, has never lost the character given to it by its earliest promoters.

Second. The first attempts to plant the colony might have proved disastrous failures had the United States Government—Mr. Monroe then the President—not made the American Colonization Society incidentally the beneficiary of the fund appropriated by Congress in connection with recaptured Africans, who were landed and supported there. To a very great extent, therefore, Liberia may be said to owe its very existence to this Government—not to our people, but to their Government.

Third. When Minister Fox, in his correspondence with Secretary Upshur, desired to know whether the United States were responsible for the acts of Liberia, Mr. Upshur took occasion to speak of the latter as the home of a people going out from the United States under circumstances which gave to it a peculiar claim to the sympathy and good feeling of this country.

Fourth. Not one of the nations whose agents and citizens are now engaged in the exploration of Africa with a view to the opening up of new markets for the surplus of manufacturing civilization, has a deeper commercial interest in this development than the United States, which has, through Liberia, an access to the interior of Africa not surpassed anywhere.

Fifth. There are no people better fitted than the Liberians to make this access available to us on this side of the Atlantic. They are of us; they know our ways; our language is common; they belong to the native race; all of which things are advantages peculiar to them.

Sixth. The attention of the colored people of the United States is gradually but slowly awakening to the idea that this country affords no field for honorable ambition aiming at high political distinction.

INDICATIONS.

The wonderful Providence of God, which is now directing to Africa the attention of the civilized world; which raised for its dis-

covery a Livingstone and a Stanley, and then provided for it from among the crowned heads of Europe a right royal benefactor, Leopold of Belgium; this marked and complex Providence indicates clearly enough that the appointed time to enlighten the "Dark Continent" has come at last. and that ours are the days in which Ethiopia shall stretch forth her hands to God. What else is tne meaning of the fact that the opening of Africa follows so closely on the liberation of the Negroes in the United States? The yoke of bondage was broken from millions of Africa's Christian sons and daughters in one continent, and then a pathway from the West was opened into another continent, the benighted home of these very people, as if to invite them to civilize and evangelize the land of their forefathers.